

OPINION 1716

Hyla chrysoscelis Cope, 1880 (Amphibia, Anura): specific name conserved by the designation of a neotype

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers all previous fixations of type specimen for the nominal species *Hyla chrysoscelis* Cope, 1880 are hereby set aside and specimen no. 37293 in the Texas Natural History Collection (University of Texas at Austin) is hereby designated as the neotype.

(2) The following specific names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

- (a) *chrysoscelis* Cope, 1880, as published in the trinomen *Hyla femoralis chrysoscelis* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above;
- (b) *versicolor* Le Conte, 1825, as published in the binomen *Hyla versicolor* and as defined by the neotype (specimen no. 84483 in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, of which the tetraploid karyotype is no. AMNH K207) designated by Smith, Fitzgerald & Guillette (1992).

History of Case 2366

An application to set aside the tetraploid holotype of *Hyla chrysoscelis* Cope, 1880 and to designate a diploid neotype was received from Profs Hobart M. Smith, Kevin T. Fitzgerald and Louis J. Guillette (then of the *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.*) on 18 November 1980. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 40: 165–166 (October 1983). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

The subsequent history of the case was summarized by the applicants in BZN 49: 151–153 (June 1992). As stated in paras. 2 and 3 on p. 152, in March 1990 the Commission rejected the proposed authorship of Johnson (1961) for the name *Hyla chrysoscelis*, endorsed a previous vote (September 1985) which set aside the type status of the holotype of *H. chrysoscelis* Cope, 1880 (unfortunately a specimen of *H. versicolor* Le Conte, 1825), and accepted as neotype of *chrysoscelis* the holotype of *H. versicolor sandersi* Smith & Brown, 1947. However, the ploidy of this specimen (USNM 123978) was questioned. It proved technically not possible to determine the chromosome number, in effect rendering the specimen useless as the neotype. Accordingly, no Opinion was published at that stage.

After unavoidable delays a diploid specimen was proposed (BZN 49: 152, paras. 3 and 4) as neotype of *H. chrysoscelis* Cope, 1880. A neotype for the tetraploid *H. versicolor* Le Conte, 1825 was also designated; in March 1990 the Commission had voted to place the name of this species on the Official List. The proposal to accept the change of neotype for *H. chrysoscelis* was submitted for voting in September 1992 and the Commission's approval has allowed the completion of this long-running case.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1992 the members of the Commission were invited to confirm the 1990 vote and accept the neotype for *Hyla chrysoscelis* proposed on BZN 49: 152. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1992 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 27: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Halvorsen, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 1: Dupuis.

No vote was received from Heppell.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

chrysoscelis, *Hyla femoralis*, Cope, 1880, *Bulletin of the United States National Museum*, 17: 29.
versicolor, *Hyla*, Le Conte, 1825, *Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York*, 1: 281.

The following is the reference for the designation of the neotype of *Hyla versicolor* Le Conte, 1825:

Smith, H.M., Fitzgerald, K.T. & Guittette, L.J., Jr. 1992, BZN 49: 152.

On BZN 49: 152 W.E. Duellman was incorrectly printed as 'Duellmann'.